



Countywide Collaboration Key to Wildfire Prevention

Though it's been a long, wet winter, the threat of wildfire is very much on our minds after three consecutive years of devastating wildfires in neighboring counties and with the beginning of fire season just around the corner.

There are more than 260,000 people living in Marin County, served by 11 municipal governments and 16 different fire districts. But when it comes to wildfire, jurisdictional boundaries disappear. "Like a flood or an earthquake, a wildfire knows no boundaries," says Marin County Fire Chief, Jason Weber. "It's imperative that we work together to prevent wildfire and to be prepared for wildfire for the good of our entire community."

Throughout the Ross Valley (and County), fire agencies and communities have mobilized around fire prevention and disaster preparedness including defensible space, vegetation management, resident evacuation and emergency planning, highlighted by exponential growth of [Firewise neighborhoods](#) and expansion of fuel reduction projects in public open space lands.

While many individual jurisdictions and neighborhoods across the County are making great progress, it's critical that communities across Marin work together to improve our collective ability to

prevent, contain, and if necessary, recover from wildfire or other natural disaster.

Reflecting this imperative, a cross-jurisdictional, multi-agency effort is underway to develop and implement a county-wide, coordinated strategy on wildfire prevention and disaster preparedness. This planning work is being led by city and county management and fire chiefs from across the County, and is being informed by the [“Lesson’s Learned”](#) report prepared by a countywide taskforce following the 2017 North Bay wildfires, and the [Marin County Community Wild Fire Protection Plan](#), a science based assessment of Marin’s wildfire threat that identifies and prioritizes areas for fuel reduction and actions that should be taken across communities to reduce structural ignitability.

For more on wildfire prevention in Marin, and towards kicking off National Wild Fire Prevention Month, [I invite you to join me for the Marin Wildfire Forum on May 4.](#) Attendees will learn from our fire professionals about wildfire prevention and community preparedness efforts happening across the County, and about a countywide initiative that will help make Marin more wildfire resilient. Please read below for more information and consider attending. You can also go to www.firesafemarin.org to learn what you can do to reduce fire risk at your own home and how to participate in broader community emergency preparedness efforts.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

[Marin Wildfire Forum](#)

What: A look at prevention and preparedness through a countywide lens. Representatives from local government, fire agencies, land managers, emergency services, law enforcement, community leaders

and wildfire experts will update residents on progress to date, work to come, and future needs. Residents will learn what they can do to protect their homes and what we can do together to make Marin as wildfire safe and emergency ready as possible.

Why: Wildfire prevention and emergency preparedness are countywide priorities. Great work is being done in communities across Marin, but there is much more to do.

When: Saturday, May 4 from 10 AM to noon.

Where: Embassy Suites, San Rafael (101 McInnis Pkwy).

Event Hosts/Sponsors: FIRESafe MARIN, County of Marin, Firewise USA, Marin County Fire Chiefs Association, Marin County Open Space.

Registration: Register at <https://bit.ly/2usj1ki>

Contact Info:

Supervisor Katie Rice
415-473-7825
krice@marincounty.org
www.facebook.com/D2KatieRice

District 2 Aides:

Nancy Vernon
415-473-7351
nvernon@marincounty.org

Jen Gauna
415-473-6159
jgauna@marincounty.org